

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Leon Sullivan,
champion of civil rights.

Crawford, Adams T, Aguilera,
Alderman, Atterholt, Avery, Ayres,
Bardon, Bauer, Becker, Behning,
Bischoff, Bodiker, Bosma, Bottorff,
Brown C, Brown T, Buck, Budak,
Buell, Burton, Cheney, Cherry,
Cochran, Cook, Crooks, Crosby, Day,
Denbo, Dickinson, Dillon, Dobis,
Dumezich, Duncan, Dvorak, Espich,
Foley, Frenz, Friend, Frizzell, Fry,
GiaQuinta, Goeglein, Goodin, Gregg,
Grubb, Harris, Hasler, Herndon,
Herrell, Hinkle, Hoffman, Kersey,
Klinker, Kromkowski, Kruse, Kruzan,
Kuzman, Lawson L, Leuck, Liggett,
Lutz J, Lytle, Mahern, Mangus,
Mannweiler, McClain, Mellinger,



Mock, Moses, Munson, Murphy,
Oxley, Pelath, Pond, Porter,
Richardson, Ripley, Robertson,
Ruppel, Saunders, Scholer, Smith M,
Smith V, Steele, Stevenson, Stilwell,
Sturtz, Summers, Thompson, Tinchler,
Torr, Turner, Ulmer, Weinzapfel,
Welch, Whetstone, Wolkins, Young
D, Yount

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



Introduced

First Regular Session 112th General Assembly (2001)

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Leon Sullivan,
champion of civil rights.

Whereas, born in Charleston, West Virginia in 1922, Leon married Grace Banks in 1944. The Sullivans currently reside in Phoenix, Arizona and have three children - Howard, Julie and Hope (who all work for IFESH) and seven grandchildren.

Whereas, he was educated at Garnett High School, West Virginia State University, Columbia University, and Union Theological Seminary. The Reverend has also been awarded honorary doctorate degrees from over 50 colleges and universities.

Whereas, in his late teens, Leon Sullivan was the pastor of two churches in West Virginia before going on to pursue his education and ministry in New York. This led to serving at a Harlem church and then a church in South Orange, New Jersey before being called in 1950 to Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia. Known as the "Lion of Zion" he served there until 1988 and during his 38 years at Zion, the congregation grew from 600 to 6,000 people. Reverend Sullivan extended the activities of the church to include a day care center, credit union, employment agency, community center for youth and adults, adult education classes, athletic teams, choral groups and family counseling services. In June 1988 he became Pastor Emeritus in order to spend his time educating, training and

2001

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feeding the people of Africa and the developing nations of the world, and to assist in the expanding work of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) of America and OIC International.

Whereas, most of Reverend Sullivan's work has been built on his principle of "Self-Help," under which people are encouraged to help themselves overcome barriers of poverty and oppression. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Reverend Sullivan initiated a successful "Selective Patronage" operation in Philadelphia to boycott companies that did not offer employment opportunities to black men and women. As job opportunities began to open up Reverend Sullivan realized that a trained workforce did not exist to fill them. In 1964, as a response to these newly opened opportunities, he founded the OIC, a skills training program training and retraining on a massive scale. The OIC, which was devised to train people of all races, ages, and genders spread quickly across the country, there are now 75 centers across the United States. In 1969 OIC International was formed mostly in Africa, but also in Europe, Central America and Asia. Currently there are 46 active centers in 17 countries. Since its beginnings, OIC has provided skills training to over three million people toward the goals of gainful employment and business creation, with billion of dollars added to the economics of the world.

Whereas, about the same time, Reverend Sullivan also founded Progress Investment Associates (PIA) and the Zion Non-profit Charitable Trust (ZNCT). PIA was founded to establish minority owned businesses and employment in the Philadelphia inner city. ZNCT was established to fund housing, shopping, human services, educational and other non-profit ventures for inner-city dwellers. Zion Gardens, an apartment complex, constructed in 1965; Progress Plaza, a two million dollar shopping center, built in 1968 and the Progress Human Services Center built in 1978 are just a few examples of the ventures undertaken by PIA and ZNCT. Reverend Sullivan also established inner-city retirement and assisted living complexes in Philadelphia and other cities throughout the United States named Opportunities Towers.



Whereas, in 1971, Reverend Sullivan became the first African American to be appointed to serve on a major corporate board, being elected as a director of the General Motors Corporation. He subsequently served for over 20 years as a director and now sits on the GM Advisory Council. The directorship helped Reverend Sullivan's work greatly in allowing him to meet with top businesses and political leaders throughout the world to initiate his programs. Reverend Sullivan has also served on a number of other boards of directors, most notably Mellon Bank, Boy Scouts of America and the Southern African Development Fund.

Whereas, in 1977, he initiated the Sullivan Principles, a code of conduct for companies operating in South Africa, which became the standard for social responsibility and equal opportunity for companies in South Africa. The Sullivan Principles are acknowledged to be one of the most effective efforts to end discrimination against blacks in the workplace in the Republic of South Africa against the apartheid system. It became a major platform on which others speak out for equal rights in South Africa against apartheid.

Whereas, in 1983, Reverend Sullivan founded the International Foundation for Self-Help (IFESH), and served as its President. IFESH is a non-profit organization set up to train 100,000 newly developed farmers and five million people in literacy. IFESH operates programs such as Teachers for Africa, SOS, (school supplies for the children of Africa), International Fellows Program, Debt for Development, Best and Brightest Bankers, Schools for Africa (building and renovating schools in rural Africa), African-African American Summit (first convened in 1991), Self-Help Investment Program (SHIPS), Liberia Reconstruction Program, Angola Training Center and other activities. It also funds health and skills training organizations such as Africare, and many small grassroots organizations.



Whereas, throughout the late 1990s Reverend Sullivan brought world and business leaders together to expand the highly effective Sullivan Principles to become the Global Sullivan Principles of Corporate Social Responsibility. In November 1999 at a special meeting at the United Nations, Reverend Sullivan and Secretary General Kofi Annan formally announced these new Principles before world and business leaders. An international oversight committee is being formed as are commissions on every continent composed of acknowledged representative leaders to oversee this global effort for the advancement of human rights, equal opportunity, and social and economic justice for workers and communities everywhere.

Whereas, back in 1963, Life magazine cited Reverend Sullivan as one of the 100 outstanding youth adults in the United States, but also throughout the world. This is evidenced by the following: in 1992, Reverend Sullivan was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George Bush honoring him for his “voice of reason for over forty years” and a lifetime of work in helping the economically and socially disadvantaged people in the world; in November 1999 he received the prestigious Notre Dame Award which is conferred “annually on a person who has achieved international recognition for the contribution to the welfare of humanity; and in December 1999 the Reverend received the Eleanor Roosevelt Award from President Bill Clinton who recognized Leon’s humanitarian efforts around the world. Truly he has turned out to be one of the world’s most outstanding leaders.

Whereas, at the 1999 African-African American Summit in Ghana Reverend Sullivan announced the Peoples Investment Fund for Africa (PIFA), the goal of which is to address the critical need for grassroots economic development by supporting self-help micro-finance initiatives to provide additional capital base for African micro and small business clients, thereby helping to create job opportunities and help alleviate poverty in Africa.

Whereas, Reverend Sullivan has published several books



over the past 45 years including “America is Theirs,” “Build Brother Build,” “Philosophy of a Giant,” “ Alternatives to Despair” and in 1998 “Moving Mountains.” These books contain his life story, his sermons, accomplishments and philosophies and his dreams for the future.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:

- 1 SECTION 1. That the late Dr. Leon Sullivan is recognized for his
- 2 contributions to the civil rights movement and the citizens of our
- 3 nation.
- 4 SECTION 2. That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
- 5 family of Dr. Leon Sullivan.

